

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 03243 211219Z

16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01

SR-02 ORM-01 /069 W

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O P 211147Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9454

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3243

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS CB

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 21, THE 52ND DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 3160

1. SUMMARY: THE KC KEPT UP A HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITY ALONG THE MEKONG BUT SUFFERED 90 KILLED FROM FANK OPERATIONS AROUND ITS SOUTHERNMOST GARRISON. MAUNG RUSSEI'S FRIENDLY POCKETS ARE IN DIFFICULTY; THEY CALLED IN AIR SUPPORT DIRECTED AT KC ELEMENTS IN THE MARKET AREA. THE KC BURNED OUT 800 FAMILIES IN A PENETRATION OF A THINLY HELD LINE ON THE EAST BANK OF THE TONLE SAP RIVER ACROSS FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG. A NAVAL CONVOY FROM NEAK LUONG TO PHNOM PENH LOST ONE LANDING CRAFT SUNK AND A PATROL BOAT MISSING TO KC GUNNERS. FOURTEEN ROCKETS AT POCHENTONG WOUNDED FIVE PEOPLE. ONE ROUND LANDED NEAR A PHNOM PENH HOSPITAL HIT SEVERALWEEKS AGO KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING FIVE. ANOTHER LANDED NORTH OF THE CAPITAL WITHOUT EFFECT. END SUMMARY.

2. FANK FORCES AT THEIR SOUTHERNMOST GARRISON ON THE

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 03243 211219Z

MEKONG ACROSS FROM PEAM REANG ISLAND LAUNCHED AIR-

SUPPORTED CLEARING OPERATIONS THAT RESULTED IN 90 KC DEAD. FANK PICKED UP 50 WEAPONS INCLUDING 10 MACHINE GUNS. THE KC LAUNCHED A SMALL ATTACK AGAINST THE PREK DACH BASE BETWEEN NEAK LUONG AND THE BASE NEAR PEAM REANG ISLAND. NEAK LUONG CONTINUED UNDER HEAVY ATTACK BY FIRE. FANK HAS DRAWN-UP NEW PLANS TO RELIEVE A BATTALION ISOLATED ON THE CITY'S EASTERN PERIMETER.

3. THE KC TOOK THREE OF SEVEN POSITIONS ON A THINLY HELD PERIMETER ACROSS THE TONLE SAP RIVER FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG, INFILTRATED INTO A REFUGEE CAMP, BURNED BARRACKS FOR ABOUT 800 FAMILIES AND REPORTEDLY ABDUCTED A NUMBER OF VILLAGERS.

4. THE RELIEF COLUMN MOVING TOWARD MAUNG RUSSEI FROM THE SOUTH RAN INTO TOUGH ENEMY RESISTANCE. IN MAUNG, THE TWO FANK POCKETS STILL HOLDING OUT ARE IN DIFFICULTY, POSSIBLY DUE TO DECLINING SUPPLIES AND AMMO. THE COMMANDER CALLED IN AIRSTRIKES, INCLUDING NAPALM, ON ENEMY UNITS OCCUPYING THE CENTRAL MARKET WHICH IS CLOSE TO HIS POSITION. MAUNG'S CIVILIANS HAVE LONG SINCE EITHER FLED TOPURSUANT(1,800 FAMILIES) OR BEEN KIDNAPPED AWAY FROM THE TOWN.

5. TAKEO FORCES PUSHING DOWN ROUTE 1 SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH MADE ANOTHER SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS BEFORE REPORTING AN ENGAGEMENT THIS NOON.

6. A NAVAL CONVOY FROM NEAK LUONG TO PHNOM PENH TOOK HEAVY FIRE FROM KC GUNNERS WHO SANK A LANDING CRAFT AND SHOT THE TWOLINE AWAY ON A PATROL BOAT WITH ENGINE TROUBLE CAUSING IT TO FLOAT AWAY TO UNKNOWN PARTS.

7. FOURTEEN ROCKETS HIT AT POCHENTONG WOUNDING FIVE PEOPLE. A ROCKET HIT NEAR A HOSPITAL IN PHNOM PENH WHICH WAS STRUCK SEVERAL WEEKS AGO KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING FIVE. A ROUND LANDED NORTH OF THE CITY WITH NO REPORTED EFFECT.

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